

This is surprising considering that many of the features being proposed for the RMS mirror elements that are common to other fisheries management regimes of which the pro-whaling nations are signatories.

I also appreciate the actions of the U.S. delegation in strong support of other important conservation proposals raised during the plenary. While I was disappointed to learn that proposals to create whale sanctuaries in the South Pacific and South Atlantic Oceans failed to pass, I was proud to hear that the U.S. delegation strongly supported both proposals. I was also pleased that the U.S. delegation joined a substantial majority of other nations to pass a resolution condemning Norway's desire to export minke whale blubber to Japan, and another resolution that reaffirmed the competence of the IWC in regards to the management of small cetaceans, such as Dall's porpoises. The administration was right to hold the line and support these efforts.

In closing, I would like to commend the leadership of the U.S. delegation to the 53rd meeting, the Commissioner, Mr. Rolland Schmitt, and the Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Michael Tillman, both from NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service. Their dedicated and tireless service on behalf of the American public in support of sensible, long-term protection of the world's great whales is remarkable. I would also like to extend my appreciation to the other members of the delegation who so ably supported Mr. Schmitt and Dr. Tillman so that they might excel under trying circumstances. Their preparations for this meeting in the midst of the political transition between elected administrations was nothing short of outstanding. They are all a credit to public service in the very best sense, and their efforts are noted and appreciated by the Congress.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS THAT THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS SHOULD SAVE SOCIAL SECURITY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND VIGOROUSLY SAFEGUARD SOCIAL SECURITY SURPLUSES, AND THAT THE PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION TO STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY SHOULD RECOMMEND INNOVATIVE WAYS TO PROTECT WORKERS' FINANCIAL COMMITMENT WITHOUT BENEFIT CUTS OR PAYROLL TAX INCREASES

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, today I, along with Ways and Means Chairman Bill Thomas, a number of my Ways and Means colleagues, and other Members of this body introduce a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the President and the Congress should save Social Security as soon as possible and vigorously safeguard Social Security surpluses, and that the President's Commission to Strengthen Social Security should recommend innovative ways to protect workers' financial commitment without benefit cuts or payroll tax increases.

Social Security is an enormously popular and successful program, and has helped keep millions of people out of poverty. It has been and will continue to be fundamental income security Americans can rely on.

However, we cannot ignore the fact that Social Security faces financial challenges in the near future. Shortly after the baby boomers begin to retire, Social Security's tax income will not be enough to cover benefit promises, even though hard-working taxpayers contribute billions of dollars of their wages to support the program.

If we do nothing, we would eventually need to reduce benefits by as much as 33% or increase taxes by almost 50% to keep the system in balance. Failing to act would be foolhardy and is entirely unacceptable. We must act soon to save Social Security for both today's seniors and for our kids and grandkids, so that all Americans will have a secure retirement and protection against income loss from disability or death of a family's breadwinner.

That is why I, along with many other Members of Congress, are introducing this sense of the Congress—because we have a duty to our seniors and to future generations to let them know their retirement security will not be jeopardized.

I urge my colleagues to follow our example and join us in expressing our dedication to saving a program that is the cornerstone of income security for Americans and has served our country well for over two-thirds of a century.

HONORING DIANE HARDEN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, often times we do not fully appreciate what we have until it's gone. Life is no exception. As Diane Harden suffered from a serious form of heart disease, she was faced with the challenge of losing her heart. Her life was in limbo and every day she was alive it was a blessing.

This experience of possibly losing her life led Diane to gain a new perspective. While her name was placed on a waiting list for nearly 3 months for a donor transplant, finally an organ donor was found to replace Diane's heart. An eighteen year old, under organ donor status, was able to assist Diane and eight others in the pursuit of a healthy life. With only a few bouts of minor rejections, she has fought strongly for her life and lives every moment to the fullest extent. Today, 14 years after the operation, she lives every day with a renewed sense of hope.

Diane now takes care of herself and her husband, who suffers from a disease that attacks the spinal chord. Throughout the couple's 31 years of marriage, they have grown together as they have both faced trying experiences with their health. At a time of celebration for her 50th birthday, Diane and seventy-six others gathered to honor her fourteen years of surviving an organ transplant.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to extend my warmest regard and best wishes to Diane Harden and her husband. My prayers are with them for their continued health and renewed hopes.

FISK JUBILEE SINGERS
COMMEMORATIVE STAMP ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce a resolution calling on the U.S. Postal Service to honor the Fisk Jubilee Singers with a commemorative stamp. The Fisk Jubilee Singers are true heroes in the fight for civil rights and racial equality in education. Their heritage goes back more than one hundred and thirty years to just after the Civil War. These singers are part of a unique group of former slaves who made it their passion to achieve the kind of education that they did not have access to before emancipation. Their spirit has been felt all across this nation and around the world, and it is my honor to stand before you today to tell you about the legacy of the Fisk Jubilee Singers, whom I hold near to my heart.

The Fisk School was founded in Nashville, Tennessee, just after the end of the Civil War. This school was intended to transcend the racial divide, with the founders of the University opening the doors of education to all persons, regardless of their race. Recently emancipated slaves, ecstatic at the limitless possibilities for freedom offered by learning, took it upon themselves to create in the Fisk School an educational institution that would give to them a sense of profound moral purpose in the great American democracy. The sale of slave paraphernalia paid for the opening of the school, and in 1867 the Fisk School became Fisk University, now the oldest university in Nashville.

Fisk University's accomplishments in the advancement of educational opportunities for African-American's is far too long to mention here. I will tell you briefly that some of the most honored African-American artists, thinkers and activists attended or were involved with Fisk, including W.E.B. DuBois, Booker T. Washington, Charles Spurgeon Johnson, James Weldon Johnson, and Thurgood Marshall, to name a few of the more distinguished African-Americans. Indeed, Fisk University played an enormously profound role in the advancement of black learning and culture in America. I am both humbled by and proud of the time that I, too, spent at Fisk University. Many of the values I hold dear to my heart today I learned from my colleagues and professors at Fisk.

It was in 1871 that a group of students formed the Fisk Jubilee Singers, a choral group, with the intent to raise money for their beloved University. That same year, these singers took all of the money from the school's treasury and used it to tour around the United States and Europe. During that tour they raised enough money to preserve the University and to construct Jubilee Hall, which became the South's first permanent structure built for the education of black students. This building has also been dedicated as a National Historic Landmark. I swell with pride to tell you that the Jubilee Singers were the first internationally acclaimed African-American musicians. They introduced so-called "slave songs" to the world and are considered responsible for preventing that historic and spiritual music from extinction. The Fisk Jubilee Singers still perform to this very day.